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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/905,218	07/13/2001	Alexander J. Berger	M-11882 US	4479
7590	11/03/2004		EXAMINER	
David W. Heid MacPherson Kwok Chen & Heid 1762 Technology Drive Suite 226 San Jose, CA 95110			KRIZEK, JANICE LEE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3652	
DATE MAILED: 11/03/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/905,218	BERGER ET AL. <i>BS</i>
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Janice L. Krizek	3652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 August 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 13,15-20,25-42 and 45-54 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 13,15-20,25-42 and 45-54 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

In line 5 of claim 52, --relative to the body-- should be inserted after "rotatable";
in line 6, "the rotational member being rotatable relative to the body when the
rotational member" should be deleted;
in line 7, "rotates around the first axis, the rotational member being for
contacting" should be --the rotational member contacting--;
the penultimate line should read thus: --article around the first axis--;
the last line should be deleted. Appropriate correction is required.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that
form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public
use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United
States.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all
obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 13, 15-20, 25, 27, 32, 37, 38, 40, 41, 45, 46, 48, 49 and 51-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsuyama (JP 61254437 A).

Figs. 1 and 2 of Matsuyama disclose an end effector including a body (unnumbered in the figures; containing gas inflow orifice 12) and rotational member 11.

5. Claims 28-31 and 33-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuyama in view of Casarotti et al.

Matsuyama does not disclose the environment in which his wafer-handling end effector 1 operates. Casarotti et al. disclose in Fig. 3A an end effector 10 attached to an arm of a robot 24, which handles a wafer 22 at station 50 (as depicted in Fig. 5). It would have been obvious to use Matsuyama's end effector with a robot for handling wafers at stations, as taught by Casarotti et al., since this would have been an art-recognized way of using Matsuyama's end effector.

6. Claims 26, 39, 42, 47 and 50 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Applicant's arguments filed August 2, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant states that Matsuyama does not teach or suggest that the surface 11 rotates relative to the top portion of the chuck. Two reasons exist which point to the fact that member 11 rotates relative to Matsuyama's body. On page 4 of the English translation helpfully provided by applicant, in line 15, it is described therein that "(F)urthermore, the wafer can be rotated". Since the wafer is firmly chucked to member 11, it would appear that the only way in which the wafer could be rotated would be through the agency of rotating member 11 relative to the body of Matsuyama. Secondly, the existence of a circumferential guide (depicted most clearly in Fig. 2 of Matsuyama) around the periphery of Matsuyama's member 11 (which guide has a tapered cross-section corresponding to the sloped shape of the bottom of Matsuyama's body) would indicate that member 11 rotates relative to the body, thus necessitating the provision of such a guide.

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Janice Krizek whose telephone number is (703) 308-2026. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen Lillis, can be reached at (703) 308-3248. The central official fax number is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.


Janice L. Krizek 10/31/2004
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 3600